

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

6 Aug 63

Dear John:

By National Security Action Memorandum No. 252, the President has directed the establishment of the National Communications System (NCS) and has designated me in my capacity as Secretary of Defense to be its Executive Agent. Detailed responsibilities assigned me in this capacity are set forth in the NSAM.

It is probable that the Defense Communications System (DCS) portion of the NCS will be by far the largest element in the NCS. As you know, the DCS is now managed and directed by the Director, DCA. The responsibilities assigned to me as Executive Agent of the NCS involve many functions similar to those now being accomplished by the Director, DCA, DCA Headquarters and its field organizations. For that reason, and to avoid the necessity for duplicative staffing, I intend to rely heavily on the DCA's capabilities for the accomplishment of tasks related to the NCS. I am designating the Director, DCA, as my Manager for the NCS for the carrying out of these functions. In this capacity, I intend that he shall:

- a. Have authority to employ the DCA staff and field organizations and to call upon other Agencies within and outside the DoD for assistance as needed.
- b. Report and recommend to me on matters concerning the NCS.
- c. Work in close coordination with your representative and a designated representative of each of the other Departments or Agencies operating a major governmental communications system.
- d. Accomplish NCS tasks assigned to him.

To assist me in the accomplishment of my responsibilities as Executive Agent, I have appointed Mr. Solis Horwitz to the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for the NCS. I shall expect him to:

a. Effect over-all coordination as necessary with all Governmental Agencies responsible for parts of the NCS.

b. Keep under review for me progress being made in the accomplishment of my NCS responsibilities and inform and recommend to me as appropriate measures for improving the NCS and for securing greater efficiency, effectiveness and economy.

c. Recommend to me tasks to be assigned to the Manager, NCS, or to other Departments or Agencies as appropriate.

d. Receive, analyze the need for, and process as appropriate requests from any Department or Agency having requirements for service from the NCS beyond that Agency's own capability to fulfill from its NCS element or NCS subsystem.

It is apparent that the primary work connected with fulfilling my responsibilities as Executive Agent must be carried forward by the Manager, NCS, the DCA staff and field organizations augmented as necessary by designated members from the other Agencies concerned. To further such effort, I request that you designate a representative to be your spokesman to, and point of contact with, the Manager, NCS. I am making similar requests of the Secretary of State, and the Administrators of NASA, GSA, and FAA. I visualize that, for some time to come at least, these representatives will have to be engaged full time on NCS business and should carry out the major portion of this with the Manager, NCS, and the DCA. I have directed, therefore, that the Manager, NCS, arrange office accommodations for these representatives near him in the DCA building.

I am assigning immediately to the Manager, NCS, tasks outlined in the enclosure to this letter. I am establishing a short

time scale for their accomplishment as indicated in the enclosure, and, therefore, I would appreciate your earliest designation of your representative to the NCS.

Sincerely,

1 Enclosure  
Memo for Manager, NCS

Honorable John A. McCone  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency